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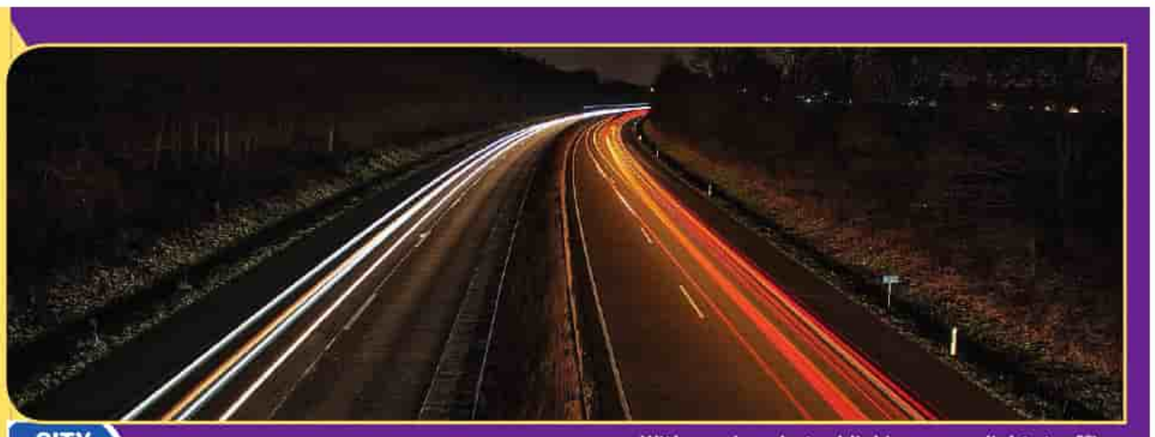
Bangalore Mirror

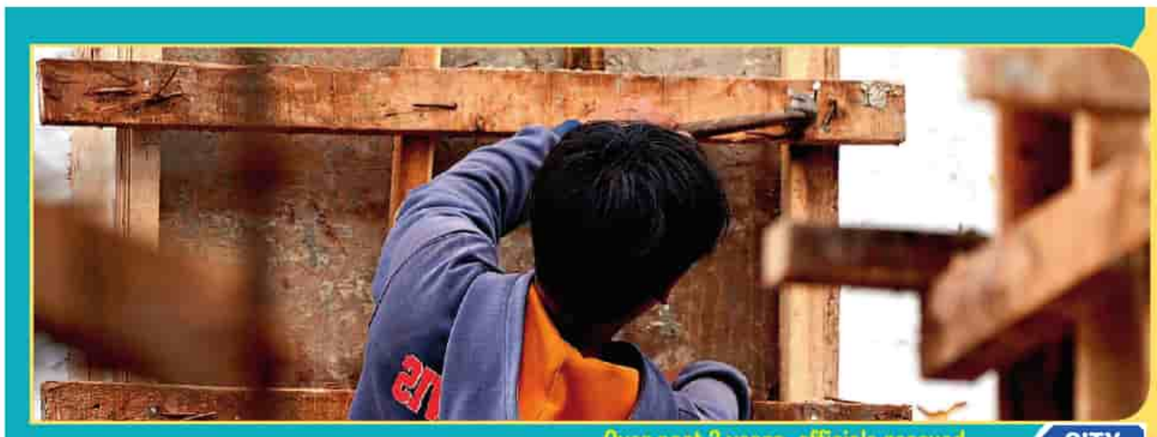
TEMP Max 32 | Min 20 | Humidity 93% Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain Sensex 81,691 | Nifty 24,888 | Gold 99,280 | Silver 1,08,900 | Dollar 85.60 | Euro 99.53 | GBP 116.00



CITY PAGE 3

Chase sequence

With no clues but a blinking green light, traffic cops chase down truck involved in hit-and-run that killed infant across 2 states to nab driver



Cruel labour

Over past 3 years, officials rescued 2,084 child labourers, but action taken against culprits remains dismal with conviction rate of 9.22%

CITY PAGE 5

Since 2018, around 100 lives were lost due to bad roads in the city. Now, citizens file complaints with authorities demanding accountability and action against negligence

KILLER CRATERS, HIDDEN CULPRIT$

Latest lethal mishap was due to lack of signages about road work, say victim's family

| Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a city with more than 10,000 potholes that have claimed around 100 lives since 2018, citizens have had enough of taking shoddy infrastructure lying down. Seeking accountability, citizens are now issuing formal complaints, seeking action after accidents involving potholes.

In the latest such incident, the father of a 28-year-old man, Manjunath BG, who was critically injured after his bike hit a pothole on Rajkumar Road in the wee hours of June 4, has filed a complaint with the BBMP Commissioner, the Rajajinagar Traffic police station, holding civic officials and the water board contractor guilty of negligence.

Manjunath sustained serious injuries after a fall in the dented road where BBMP had undertaken

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

"Most people don't come forward to file complaints, but potholes and poor road conditions are causing countless injuries, accidents, and deaths. It's nothing but sheer negligence
—Ganesh, father of accident victim

ERROR MESSAGE

Shrubs turn trees, IDs not in order and now some trees left untagged, but agency conducting census says all discrepancies will be ironed out

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Since BBMP started its much-awaited tree census of Bengaluru in February last year, citizens have been highlighting inconsistencies in the ongoing process.

After 'flower-bearing shrubs tagged' and 'incoherent ID generated', the latest in the list of discrepancies is unmarked trees.

Residents from Bhuvaneshwari Nagar in Dasarahalli have reviewed the process and inspected trees in front of their houses, only to find out that some trees have been left untagged.

"BBMP has recently tagged trees in front of my house. However, multiple trees on both sides of the road, in random order, have been left unmarked," a resident from the area told BM.

When BM approached the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Groove along

Vilen, the singer-songwriter from Delhi, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his soulful music. **Where: Ignite Super Club, HSR Layout; When: June 27, 7 pm**

02 Artistic message

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Ethereal Charm' by Niladri Ghosh, encompassing forests and wildlife. Ghosh uses his art to highlight the importance of protecting nature. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: June 13 to July 6, 7 pm**

03 Break new ground

'Senior Spotlight: An Open Mic for the 55+', a specially curated event, invites seniors aged 55 and above to share their stories, voices, and talents on a warm, welcoming stage, promising an evening of creativity, laughter, music, and connection.
Where: Pops of Pastel, Basavanagudi; When: June 15, 5.30 pm to 8 pm

04 Celebrating artistry

NGMA Bengaluru, in collaboration with Ananya Drishya, a city-based artists' collective led by SG Vasudev, is organising a special screening of talks by the late Girish Karnad, in loving remembrance of his life and legacy.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: June 14, 5 pm

05 Funny side

Zakir Khan's brand new show 'Papa Yaar' is bringing a world of laughter, love, and nostalgia, through anecdotes packed with wit, emotion, and his signature poetic flair.
Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: July 26, 3 pm and 7 pm

Bengaluru celebrates Pride Month with inclusive events

Intent behind diverse events is to build sustainable environments, reflecting broader shift of focus towards presence, participation, and community care, say organisers

This June, Bengaluru's cultural calendar is witnessing a steady stream of Pride Month events that go beyond celebration — creating spaces for conversation, expression, and solidarity. As Pride marks 25 years since its global inception in 1999, the city is embracing a more grounded and community-driven approach to LGBTQIA+ visibility and engagement.

Across Bengaluru, the focus this year is on inclusive gatherings that foster reflection, belonging, and quiet resistance. From small theatre performances and academic panels to public marches and zine-making workshops, Pride is taking many forms — each rooted in a shared commitment to making space.

Amongst the key events is 'Polylogue in the Park', an open discussion circle curated by the group Beyond Monogamy. Scheduled for June 15 at Cubbon Park, the event invites queer polyamorous individuals and allies into a casual, non-structured setting aimed at building community through open dialogue and shared presence. Another major initiative is the Karnataka Swabhimana Habba, a month-long series organised by the Coalition of Sex Workers', Sexual & Gender Minority Rights. Held every Sunday in June, the campaign includes poetry readings, poster-making sessions, marches, and history walks — each designed to affirm dignity and amplify long-marginalised voices.

On June 14, the Preetiya Habba 2025 will be held at Bangalore Creative Circus. This day-long event will feature over 30 queer-owned stalls, alongside performances, food, fashion, and music. It serves as both a celebration and fundraiser, spotlighting queer-led creativity and resilience.

BHANUPRIYA V

The city is embracing a more grounded and community-driven approach to LGBTQIA+ visibility and engagement

In contrast to the more public-facing events, spaces like Queer Quiet Hours offer calm and intimacy. Taking place on June 15 at Atta Galatta, this LGBTQIA+-only art gathering prioritises healing and safety in a closed, non-commercial setting. Organisers say the intent behind these diverse events is to build sustainable, trauma-informed, and inclusive environments where queer, polyamorous, and gender-diverse individuals can thrive. These initiatives reflect a broader shift in how Pride is observed — less focused on spectacle, and more on presence, participation, and community care.

Throughout June, Bengaluru's parks, bookstores, creative venues, and public spaces will continue to host events that underscore a simple but powerful message: Pride is not just about visibility, but about making room — for stories, for silence, and for being, according to the organisers.

— Achala Nataraj

Lending a helping hand

A group of volunteers facilitated an opportunity for the public to help those in need by donating items such as clothes, toys, books, utensils, and electronics. The collection and distribution of used items was a collective effort by The Indian Ploggers Army along with Robin Hood Army and Helping Heroes. The volunteers collected the preloved materials from different locations including Kundalahalli and Jayanagar, and distributed the items amongst slum areas in Jayanagar, Koramangala, and Bhuvaneshwari Nagar near Subramanyapura. "I am very happy to get clothes for my children. The clothes are in good condition. The volunteers have distributed many used items in our locality," said Sharada M, a resident of Bhuvaneshwari Nagar.

"I am one of the members of the Shalon team. We have collected used items from the residents of our apartment complex. The donors are happy to see those used items reach the needy," said Swathi Kakodkar, a resident of Kundalahalli.

The volunteers said that all the donated articles were given out to underprivileged families, and that such distribution drives occur monthly.

Plog Raja, Founder of The Indian Ploggers Army, opined that in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, every individual needs to be a conscious consumer and think twice before purchasing anything. "The concept of decluttering and rehoming makes a lot of sense to build a sustainable neighbourhood. While we are happy to get the materials rehomed to the underprivileged, at a broader level, each one must be more mindful in consumption of resources. Every individual action adds up and makes a bigger difference," he said.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

Venkatappa Art Gallery gets a new look

The iconic Venkatappa Art Gallery on Kasturba Road, Bengaluru, is all set to welcome art lovers in a completely renovated form — while retaining the essence of its original architectural charm. The building, which had fallen into disrepair due to structural issues and outdated facilities, has now been rejuvenated with upgraded infrastructure, a modern lighting system, a well-equipped auditorium, and climate control amenities, amongst other improvements.

A historic makeover

The Department of Museums and Heritage signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brigade Foundation in September 2023 under the 'Adopt a Monument' scheme to take up the gallery's renovation. The work officially commenced on January 24, 2024. Initially estimated at Rs 5 crore, the total cost ballooned to approximately Rs 10 crore by the time the project neared completion.

A legacy preserved

Built in memory of the celebrated artist Venkatappa — whose contributions earned Karnataka global acclaim — the gallery's foundation was laid in 1967, and it was opened to the public in 1975. The complete renovation has been funded under the CSR initiative of Brigade Foundation. The revamped gallery is now ready for inauguration.

Structured space for art

The layout has been carefully reimagined to suit the requirements of contemporary art exhibitions. The walls and ceilings have been refitted, and expert-designed lighting now illuminates the artworks. The ground floor includes three distinct galleries — for large, medium, and small exhibitions — offering flexibility for artists. A 100-seat open auditorium has also been created for exhibitions, art camps, and student workshops. It includes a projector and other modern amenities. An existing office space has been transformed into an art store, and the gallery's outdoor area will also be used for art activities and public seating.

"Artists can choose the gallery that best suits their needs. The upgraded building will be handed back to the Department of Museums and Heritage for regular operations", said A Devaraju, Commissioner, Department of Museums and Heritage. The renovated Venkatappa Art Gallery offers a curated experience across three levels. The ground floor features an auditorium, three art galleries, and modern sanitary facilities. The first floor houses a permanent gallery dedicated to K Venkatappa, showcasing his iconic paintings, veenas, awards, certificates, and personal memorabilia. The second floor is home to a permanent gallery of renowned artist KK Hebbar and a collection of wooden sculptures by Major Rajaram. The terrace space is designated for children's workshops and other creative activities.

Entry fee to be finalised

The state government has formed a committee of prominent artists from across Karnataka to suggest appropriate entry and exhibit display fees. The final ticket rates will be decided based on the committee's recommendations, department sources confirmed. Officials said that the renovated Venkatappa Art Gallery stands as a harmonious blend of heritage and modernity — ready once again to serve as a vibrant cultural hub for the city.

Green light trail leads cops to suspect truck

Blinking feature on truck helps police trace it after hit-and-run kills three-month-old and injures his parents; with no tip-offs, CCTV & Fastag data guide two-state chase

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In a 900-km chase across two states, Jalahalli traffic police tracked down a truck driver who killed a three-month-old baby and injured his parents in a hit-and-run on Sunday night.

The incident occurred on June 8 at around 11.18 pm near the Kuvempu underpass on the MES Ring Road, when Michael, his wife Sara, and their infant son, Mac Adams, were heading towards Hebbal on a two-wheeler after visiting relatives. A speeding closed goods truck brushed past them with force, causing the family to fall onto the road. The truck ran over Sara and the baby, causing grievous injuries. The infant was rushed to MS Ramaiah Hospital but was declared dead.

Green blink helps cops

In his complaint to the Jalahalli Traffic Police, Michael stated that in the dark, the truck resembled a green bus due to its size and colour, which initially misled both him and the investigators. The situation was further complicated as no bystanders alerted the police or called emergency services at the time of the incident. This lack of timely information caused a delay in the early stages of the investigation.

It was only after a woman driving by stopped to help the injured family and ensured they reached the hospital that the case gained momentum. Acting on the complaint, Inspector Shekhar formed five dedicated teams to trace the hit-and-run vehicle. While scanning over 60 CCTV footages, investigators noticed a truck with a distinct blinking green light near the accident site. Despite the number plate being unclear, the blinking green light became a crucial identifier that allowed the police to track the truck across toll booths and jurisdictions.

"The green blinking light was our only visual cue, and it helped us trace the vehicle's movement across city limits through various toll booths," Inspector Shekhar said.

Fastag data and CCTV trail

Using Fastag data, an electronic toll collection system that records a vehicle's number, location, and the exact time it passes each toll booth, the Jalahalli traffic police traced the truck's route from Sadahalli toll plaza in Bengaluru to Kannur in Andhra Pradesh, as it made its way toward Delhi via Hyderabad.

Alongside Fastag inputs, toll-to-toll CCTV surveillance was used to confirm the truck's passage and movement. The vehicle, with a Haryana registration, was finally intercepted with help from the Andhra Pradesh police. The driver, Ismail (32), a resident of Mewat in Haryana, was taken into custody and brought back to Bengaluru.

He has been booked for death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving. "This case was solved because of teamwork, detailed CCTV review, and crucial Fastag tracking. The blinking green light on the truck helped us connect the dots," Inspector Shekhar stated. Further investigation is underway.

Public awareness is crucial

Police officials highlighted an aspect of the case: the lack of public response at the accident site. "Not one bystander called the police or dialled 112. It was a passing motorist, a woman, who helped rush the victims to the hospital. Timely alerts could make a difference between life and death," the police official stated.

Wife's tip cracks murder case

Varthur police have arrested a 24-year-old hotel cook for the murder of a man whose decomposed body was found in a drain in Chikkabellandur on April 11. The accused, Vikas Bahadur Bista, was picked up after the victim's wife, Sushma Gurang, approached the police with key information that cracked the case.

Initially treated as an unnatural death, the case gained momentum after Sushma identified the body as that of her husband, Deepak Bahadur Bhat, and revealed Vikas's involvement. Police said Deepak, who had a history of domestic violence, got into a drunken altercation with Sushma on April 11. When Vikas, who lived nearby, tried to intervene, Deepak assaulted him as well.

Humiliated, Vikas allegedly decided to take revenge. A few days later, he confronted and fatally assaulted Deepak, later dumping the body in an open drain. Sushma had delayed reporting the matter, assuming her husband had gone missing as he often did. But when she heard Vikas boasting about the killing to a relative, she informed the police, leading to his arrest and the case being upgraded to murder.

Bus mishap claims retired cop

A 71-year-old retired head constable was killed after a KSRTC bus ran over his two-wheeler in Rajaji Nagar on Wednesday evening. The victim, Hanumantharayappa, a resident of Chikka Banavara and former City Armed Reserve personnel, had visited the PF office to check on his pension and was returning home when the accident occurred.

According to police, a KSRTC bus knocked down his motorcycle, causing him to lose balance and fall. He came under the rear wheels of the moving bus. Though he was rushed to a nearby hospital with severe injuries, he later succumbed.

Rajaji Nagar traffic police have arrested the driver and seized the bus. Locals, meanwhile, held BBMP officials responsible, alleging that constant road digging and poor maintenance have turned the stretch into a death trap for motorists and pedestrians alike.

Stampede: 'Keep all dept communication with chief secy'

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court issued directives on Thursday to the state, mandating that all departmental communications surrounding the Bengaluru Stampede be placed under the Chief Secretary of Karnataka's custody. This order was issued during the suo moto proceedings regarding the tragic incident outside the MA Chinnaswamy Stadium during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) IPL victory celebrations.

The Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty confirmed the forthcoming transfer of documents, acknowledging that their secure preservation would serve the state's interests.

During the previous session, the division bench, comprising the Acting Chief Justice and Justice CM Joshi, had permitted the Advocate General to present the state's investigation report in a sealed envelope.

The bench reviewed the report during this session and questioned the Advocate General regarding the establishment of multiple investigative commissions. The incident prompted both a magisterial inquiry and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's appointment of a separate one-man commission led by a retired judge.

The bench voiced concerns about the necessity of multiple inquiry commissions and cautioned the Advocate General about potential inconsistencies in findings across different commissions.

"We will not spare you (government) if the findings are different from different commissions," the bench stated.

The court instructed the AG to submit the various commissions' terms of reference. The AG committed to providing translated copies of the complete report within two days. The high court initiated suo motu proceedings on June 5, following the incident, and sought explanations from the Karnataka Government regarding the tragedy's cause and preventive measures.

RCB officials get interim relief

The Karnataka High Court issued an order on June 12 for the interim release of RCB marketing head Nikhil Sosale, who challenged his arrest regarding the Bengaluru stampede near Chinnaswamy stadium on June 4 before the IPL team's 2025 IPL victory celebration.

The court extended similar interim relief to Sunil Mathew, Kiran Kumar S and Shamant NP Mavinakere from M/s DNA Entertainment Networks Private Ltd.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar ordered the petitioners' release with a condition to surrender their passports. During Wednesday's proceedings, Senior Advocate Sandesh Chouta, representing Sosale, contended that when entities are named in the FIR, authorities cannot pursue employees, stating there can be no vicarious liability.

Sri Abhinava Vidyathirtha Multi-Speciality Hospital, Sringeri.

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Bangalore University to go plastic-free with app

Bangalore University (BU) has embarked on a significant mission to transform its campus into a plastic-free zone, with the active participation of students, faculty, and staff. Partnering with the app 'Bottle for Change', the university's initiative focuses on scientific disposal, segregation, and recycling of plastic waste. The larger aim is to instil a sense of civic responsibility and environmental consciousness among students and staff of university, thereby ensuring that no plastic waste ends up in landfills.

To begin with, BU plans to install dedicated dustbins at key spots across the campus—including academic departments, administrative buildings, and student hostels—for systematic plastic waste collection. The waste will be segregated into seven different categories and collected regularly. These efforts will be accompanied by regular awareness programs, campus-wide cleanliness drives, and environmental campaigns to engage the university community in any future sustainable practices.

Dr BC Nagaraja, professor and head of the Department of Environmental Science, explained the need for this initiative. "The university campus is also accessible to outsiders as public roads cut across it, leading to a lot of plastic waste strewn around. The campus also has many hostels and administrative blocks spread across a large area, and thus, a process to ensure scientific disposal of plastic was needed. Our campus is also rich in biodiversity and ecologically diverse areas. We wanted to secure these hotspots and ensure that the university is not a source of plastic pollution," he said. As part of the rollout, ten collection units will be established across the campus to collect used plastic items. The collected waste will be managed by Bisleri International Pvt Ltd as part of their CSR initiative. After segregation, the waste will be sent to a recycling unit in Bidadi. This process is expected to generate modest revenue for the university, contributing to the sustainability of the program.

In addition, housekeeping staff and security personnel at BU will receive comprehensive training on waste segregation. This includes instructions on cleaning and drying items like milk packets before placing them in collection bins. Forty BU student volunteers, chosen from different departments, will undergo plastic waste management training and share this knowledge with their peers. Bangalore University also aims to extend this eco-friendly model to all its affiliated colleges, establishing a consistent culture of sustainability across campuses in the future.

— BMB

BU staff and students taking zero plastic pledge

Banashankari allottees await legal resolution

Hundreds of site owners left helpless as original landowners reclaim BDA acquired land; association urges government to safeguard homebuyers' interests

Hundreds face uncertainty as HC quashes BDA's 16-acre land acquisition in Banashankari 6th Stage

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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Banashankari Affected Site Owners Federation (BASOF) on Wednesday urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner and Bangalore Deputy Commissioner to protect the rights of those who bought sites at Banashankari 6th Stage.

The Karnataka High Court has passed the judgment in favour of original land owners, who claimed the BDA has failed to fully develop the land. With this hundreds of people who bought sites at Banashankari 6th Stage Layout are in trouble as the High Court quashed proceedings over acquisition of 16 acres of land.

Speaking with media persons at Press Club, Yogesh, convenor of BASOF, said that the affected site owners have decided to submit a memorandum to the Bangalore Deputy Commissioner and the BDA Commissioner to take legal measures to protect the interests of the site owners.

"With the failure of the BDA to submit the documents in the honourable court, the future of around 350 site owners is at risk. Many people have already constructed buildings and have been paying property tax to the BDA," said Yogesh.

He said that he bought the site (30X40) from one of the allottees by paying around Rs 80 lakh more than a year ago. "Now, the land owner is not allowing me to construct the building on the site claiming that the land belongs to him," he said.

> **"The hapless site allottees, who paid their hard-earned money to buy sites from the BDA, have to wait to construct their dream homes till the petition in the court is disposed** – M Ravishankar, social activist

Expressing concern over the plight of the site allottees, M Ravishankar, a social activist, said the hapless site allottees, who paid their hard-earned money to buy sites from the BDA, have to wait to construct their dream homes till the petition in the court is disposed. "The BDA cannot allot alternative sites to the victims till the court gives final judgment," he said.

Rudrappa S, a retired employee, said that the BDA has allotted him a 30x40 site in 2002. "Now, I am 84 years old. I want to construct my dream home but the land owner is not allowing me to go ahead with my plan. The BDA has sanctioned the building plan. I have been paying the property tax to the BDA all these years. I do not know whether I will be able to realise my dream of having my own house," rues Rudrappa.

F.No. BAN/LANDS/113/E-AUC/III
Defence Estates Office, Karnataka Circle
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore - 560 042. Ph: 080-25367213

E- AUCTION NOTICE - 2nd Call

The intending bidders are invited to participate the E-Auction for Cutting and removal of 629 Nos. of various kinds of standing on Defence land inside the campus of **ASC Centre North, Bangalore** will be conducted through E-Auction portal (www.eauction.gov.in) on **24.06.2025 between 1100 hours to 1700 hours.**

The intending bidders are requested to visit the above mentioned E-Auction website and follow the instructions for creating/registering profile for bidding. Terms and conditions of the sale are available in the Public Auction Notice. The participants may download the same from the website mentioned above and submit a Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque for **Rs.1,70,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Thousand only) in favour of **Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bangalore** as Earnest Money Deposit to this office for participating the auction, failing which they will not be allowed to participate in the auction. Bid auto extension will be 10 minutes.

Sd/- Defence Estates Officer
Karnataka Circle, Bangalore

BAN/LANDS/113/E-AUC/III/
Station: Bangalore.
Dated: 11, June, 2025.

Bannerghatta Safari's goes electric soon

In a major eco-friendly move, the Forest Department has decided to introduce electric vehicles (EVs) for safari rides at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre announced. He said the initiative is aimed at reducing carbon emissions in forest areas and promoting environmentally sustainable tourism. "With growing concerns over pollution caused by conventional fuel-based vehicles, the department is committed to ensuring cleaner alternatives. As a pilot initiative, Bannerghatta will become the first safari in the country to deploy smoke-free electric vehicles," he said. The Full-fledged operations are expected to begin over the coming weekend. — BMB

Farmers protest BDA's Shivaram Karanth Layout expansion plan

Farmers from Mavallipura, Doddabylakere, Kemppapura, and nearby villages have opposed the proposed expansion of Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout (Extension) by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). The BDA plans to acquire around 3,000 acres across 18 villages in Yelahanka and North Bengaluru taluks. Farmers have demanded fair compensation before any land acquisition begins. They argue that those who suffered due to earlier development must be compensated first. Development of the Karanth Layout is on a fast track, with preparations underway to sell 30,000 sites. Phase 1 is already progressing, and officials have been instructed to identify additional land for expansion. A preliminary notification was issued last month. A four-member land acquisition officer team has been formed to collect data and prepare reports. Engineers and surveyors have been tasked with mapping land and submitting ownership, area, and RTC documents. Of the originally proposed 3,837 acres, 3,173.22 acres have already been acquired. In this area, BDA planned nine blocks with over 30,000 residential sites in various dimensions. — BMB

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Pothole peril

Cantonment

Potholes on the road after Cantonment Railway Station are posing a serious risk to motorists, making the stretch hazardous to drive on.

Trench trouble

JP Nagar

A trench dug on Feb 25 for sewage work on 25th Main, J P Nagar 1st Phase, remains unfinished. Locals tried a temporary fix, but proper restoration is pending for over four months. Two-wheelers often get stuck here.

Blocked footpath

Jayanagar

A barricade near South End Circle Metro Station is obstructing pedestrian movement. Such makeshift barriers are becoming increasingly common, encroaching on footpaths and causing inconvenience to commuters.

Children at work, not school, across K'taka districts

Despite rescues, and awareness drives, child labour remains rampant, with many children, some under 10, still working in hazardous conditions amid poor conviction rates and weak enforcement

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At an age meant for play and learning, hundreds of children in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are being exploited for profit, forced into physically demanding and often hazardous jobs. Official data from the state Labour Department reveals a disturbing rise in child labour cases between 2022 and 2025, exposing a deep-rooted social crisis that persists despite awareness drives and legal action.

Over the past three years, the department conducted 1,02,213 inspections and rescued 2,084 children from exploitative conditions. However, in only 65 of the 705 criminal cases filed were the offenders punished, a conviction rate of just 9.22%. The rest are still pending in court, raising questions about the effectiveness of enforcement.

Sources said that to raise awareness about child labour, the government has organised street plays, wall paintings, leaflet distributions, legal awareness campaigns, and training workshops. But the results have been modest. Child labour remains rampant, especially in urban pockets like Bengaluru, where minors are often employed in hotels, tea stalls, canteens, garages, and even rag-picking operations.

The issue is not confined to the city. In 2024–25 alone, Belagavi topped the list with 68 rescues, followed by Yadgir (60), Raichur (56), Mysuru (53), and Ballari and Bengaluru (43 each). The data paints a worrying picture for a developing state like Karnataka.

Despite 34.31 lakh in fines, token efforts fail to curb child labour

According to child rights experts, many of these children are under the age of 10, and around 36% are involved in family-based work, while 23% are engaged in trade and commerce sectors. The law prohibits employing children under 14 in any job and adolescents under 18 in hazardous occupations. Yet, violations continue with minimal penalties.

> **Every child must be in school until age of 18. But poverty and social neglect push them into labour. There must be monthly raids by task forces in every taluk** –Activist

An activist said, "Convictions remain sparse. In 2022–23, only 8 offenders were convicted in Chikkaballapur, and just a few in Chamrajnagar, Mandya, Hassan, and other districts. In the current year (2024–25), Bengaluru has seen 7 convictions, followed by Chikkaballapur (3), and isolated cases in Udupi, Mandya, Koppal, Kolar, and other districts." Another activist said, "Every child must be in school until the age of 18. But poverty and social neglect push them into labour. There must be monthly raids by task forces in every taluk. Annual drives alone are ineffective," said Shashidhar Kosambe, member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Despite collecting over 34.31 lakh in fines, child labour continues unchecked in many districts, a grim reminder that much more than token efforts are needed to protect children in Bengaluru and across the state.

Cop kicks, abuses woman constable

A woman constable was allegedly abused and assaulted by a head constable during a night shift at Upparpet police station, in a case of workplace violence.

According to the FIR filed by Constable Renuka, Head Constable BG Govindaraju verbally abused and kicked her multiple times after she confronted him for allegedly making derogatory comments about two minor girls who had run away from home and were being counselled at the station. Renuka, who works in the computer department, had offered food and comfort to the children during the late hours of June 10.

Around 2.30 am, while escorting the girls to the assistant investigating officer's room, Govindaraju allegedly used inappropriate language towards them. When Renuka objected to his behaviour, she claims he verbally abused her and kicked her with his shoe-clad foot three to four times.

The complaint also states that ASI Thimmegowda and constables Basappa and Mahesh, who were present at the time, supported Govindaraju and allegedly joined in the abuse. Following Renuka's complaint, a case has been registered against Govindaraju under relevant IPC sections at Upparpet police station.

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Foodies, these trends are taking over

Are you still stuck with last year's food fads? Widen your horizons and learn about these exciting new food trends that are taking the world by storm.

Fermented foods

We Indians have a long tradition of fermenting our foods, from pickling vegetables to our idli batters to our panta bhaat and kanji. However, fermented foods are all the international rage now, with experts worldwide advocating the use of probiotics that are great for gut health. Try some exotic fermented foods like kimchi, miso and kefir.

Alcohol-free beverages

Non-alcoholic drinks are all the rage among health-conscious millennials who are shunning alcohol for tonic waters, flavoured water, non-alcoholic spirits and botanical mixes and cordials.

Poke bowl

Poke bars are the hottest thing as far as restaurants are concerned. These no-fuss Hawaiian-themed eateries serve up bowls of goodness called Poke bowls. Poke translates to "sliced" in Hawaiian, and the dish comprises chunks of raw or marinated fish served with rice, vegetables and sauces. This common Hawaiian dish is super-healthy and delicious.

Timut pepper

Ghost pepper and habaneros are so yesterday. The spicy condiment of the moment is the Timut pepper from Nepal. Somewhat like the Sichuan pepper, it has a sharp, tingly heat and a fruity flavour.

Exotic teas

While we have always known the benefits of tea, the world is now firmly in its grip and experimenting with a variety of exotic teas from around the world. Try interesting varieties like jasmine, ginger festive tea, rooibos tea, matcha, white pearls white tea

Hyper-local food

It's no longer cool to get your produce from halfway across the world. Not only is it bad for the environment, but it's not great either, as food transported from across the world is typically high in pesticides and preservatives. Go to your local market and pick seasonal food that is grown in your area. Grow your produce and vegetables if possible.

–Femina

Calls to make Tumakuru B'luru North district grow loud & clear

Tumakuru District In-Charge Dr G Parameshwara reveals talks are underway at government level to formalise this idea, which a few ministers are lobbying for

Sridhar Vivan
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After Ramanagara district became Bengaluru South, now the demand is growing to make Tumakuru as 'Bengaluru North'district. A few of the ministers are lobbying so that the government considers creation of a new district named Bengaluru North by reorganising Tumakuru. Home Minister and Tumakuru District In-Charge Dr G Parameshwara revealed that discussions are underway at the government level to formalise this idea. Dr Parameshwara said the proposal closely follows the model adopted for creating Bengaluru South out of Ramanagara. "Just as Ramanagara was carved out as Bengaluru South, a similar plan is being discussed for Tumakuru to become Bengaluru North," he said.

The idea is gaining momentum due to the rapid expansion of Bengaluru city. With the city's development already stretching to Nelamangala, officials expect the growth to naturally extend to Tumakuru, just 30 km away. Against this backdrop, incorporating Tumakuru into Bengaluru's expanding urban framework is being actively considered.

"Bengaluru is expanding quickly and could soon envelope surrounding districts like Tumakuru, Ramanagara, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur,"

Urban sprawl from Bengaluru reaches Nelamangala, inching closer to Tumakuru's outskirts

Parameshwara noted. He added that the terminology matters "Tumakuru district" may sound remote to outsiders, whereas "Bengaluru North" resonates better globally. "This clarity of naming can enhance the region's appeal and administrative visibility," he said.

Officials believe rebranding the district could attract investment and infrastructure, positioning Tumakuru more prominently in the state's urban strategy. Parameshwara also said Tumakuru city itself is poised for significant growth in the coming years, making it timely to consider redrawing boundaries.

> **"Just as Ramanagara was carved out as Bengaluru South, a similar model is being discussed for Tumakuru to become Bengaluru North**
> – Dr G Parameshwara

He cited Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's strategic blueprint for creating Bengaluru South from Ramanagara. "The region's identity shifted the moment it was renamed. A similar transformation could unfold for Tumakuru," he said, emphasising that deliberations are progressing within the government.

HC stay or not, K'taka environment authority clears projects anyway

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (KSEIAA) is once again under scrutiny. A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice G Basavaraja passed an interim order on January 17 while hearing a writ petition filed by Dodda Aswathanarayana Swamy. On April 9, 2025, the High Court extended the interim order until the next date of hearing and directed that the matter be listed during the third week of June.

Despite this, the KSEIAA has continued to hold meetings and issue environmental clearances for various projects across the state, seemingly disregarding the court's directive.

Balakrishna Shetty, an environmental activist from Mangaluru, has sought clarification under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) regarding the implementation of the High Court's stay order in Writ Petition No. 15267 of 2024.

In his application, Shetty stated, "In Writ Petition No. 15267 of 2024, the High Court ordered that the matter under the impugned notification shall not be precipitated until the next hearing. Despite this stay, SEIAA Karnataka and SEAC Karnataka have continued to conduct meetings and issue environmental clearances. Kindly provide copies of directions or correspondence between the Ministry and SEIAA Karnataka or the Department of Ecology and Environment regarding the stay order issued on January 17, 2025."

Karnataka State Environment Impact Assessment Authority continues to give clearances to projects

Bangalore Mirror report on February 11, 2025: HC stays environment panel's decision amid controversy

In response, Dr Saurabh Upadhyay, Chief Public Information Officer and Scientist D, asked Shetty to remit Rs 1,694 for copies of the relevant documents, calculated at Rs 2 per page. The documents released confirm that the Union Ministry had indeed sought legal opinion from Senior Consultant (Legal), Smitha Harshal Salve, regarding the High Court's interim stay.

Salve's opinion clearly interprets the order as a stay on the execution and operation of the Ministry's notification dated March 8, 2024 (OM SO 1188(E)). "Considering the prayer in the petition... it can be very well interpreted that the Hon'ble High Court intends not to precipitate the operation of this notification," she wrote. "Hence, in view of the above... the Hon'ble High Court has stayed the operation of OM dated March 8, 2024. However, given the petitioner's repeated representations, it would be prudent to seek clarification from the Court to avoid any potential contempt."

> **HC stay ignored: KSEIAA grants clearances despite court order, RTI reveals legal alarm over unqualified environmental appointments**

Bangalore Mirror reported on the controversy in a February 11, 2025 article titled HC stays environment panel's appointments. Earlier, on January 3, 2025, it had also published Environment oversight: Unqualified appointments, highlighting how successive BJP and Congress governments were accused of appointing unqualified members to environmental panels, raising serious concerns over the integrity of environmental assessments in Karnataka.

IN BRIEF

Shakti scheme powers 474 crore rides

The Karnataka government's flagship 'Shakti' Guarantee Scheme, which offers free bus travel for women, has completed two years as of Wednesday. Since its launch, the scheme has enabled women across the state to avail 474 crore free rides on government buses. Implemented as the first of the five guarantee schemes by the current state government, Shakti has received a highly positive response. Initially, around 50 to 60 lakh women used the service daily. Today, that number has risen to 70–75 lakh. The cumulative value of the free rides has reached ₹11,994 crore, highlighting the government's strong commitment to gender-inclusive public transport. — BMB

Launched: Direct train from B'luru to Rishikesh

In response to long-standing passenger demand, the Indian Railways has introduced the first-ever direct train service between Bengaluru and Uttarakhand, connecting the southern city with the holy town of Rishikesh. The Yeshwantpur–Rishikesh Special Express (Train Nos. 06597/06598) has received approval from the Railway Board and will run as a special service on selected dates. Train No. 06597 will depart from Yeshwantpur every Thursday at 7:00 am (on June 19, 26, and July 3), reaching Rishikesh at 10:20 am on Saturday. The return train, No. 06598, will leave Rishikesh on Saturdays (June 21, 28, July 5) at 5:55 pm. — BMB

Toxic liquor trade crackdown

Excise Minister RB Thimmapur has directed strict action against the sale of liquor mixed with the dangerous CH powder and warned officials to prevent its circulation under any circumstances. He also called for curbing the misuse of military-labelled liquor and the sale of counterfeit alcohol under the "military" tag. The meeting also stressed uniform penalties for BLC violations and stronger checks on illegal liquor transport and non-potable spirit misuse. — BMB

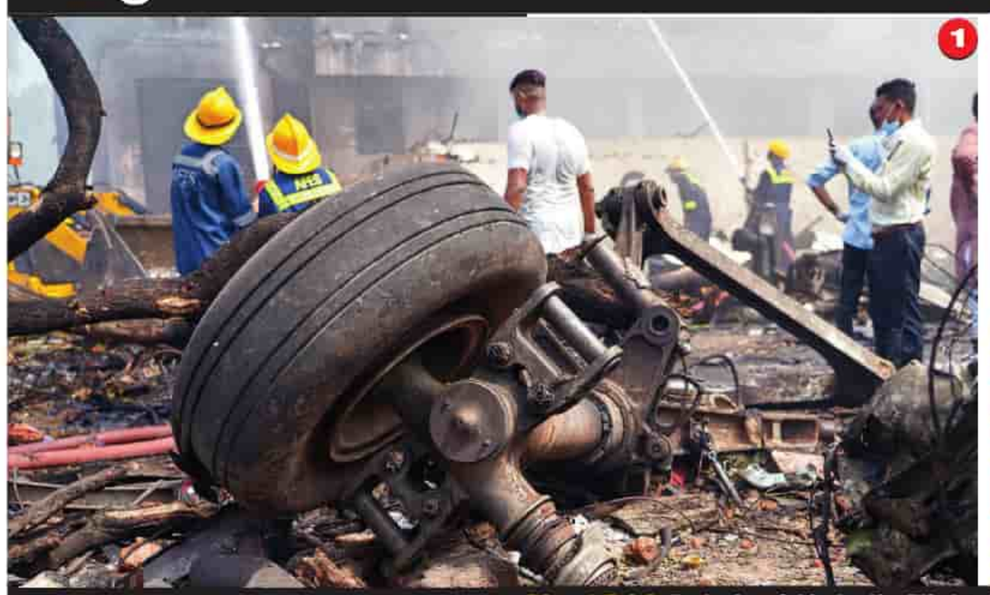
Minors' assault: No relief for prof

The Karnataka High Court has declined to dismiss criminal proceedings against a 44-year-old assistant professor from a leading research institute in the city, who stands accused of sexually assaulting eight minor girls at his daughter's ninth birthday party in 2018. The court rejected his claim of procedural lapses, stating such issues can be raised during trial and do not warrant quashing the case at this stage. — BMB

Crash horror

200+ die in Air India plane crash

* Flight was bound for London's Gatwick Airport * Police say plane crashed on doctors' hostel



Pics 1,5 &6: Debris of Air India Flight AI171 seen at the crash site, in Ahmedabad on Thursday; Pic 2: Rescue efforts are underway at the crash site; 3: Family members of Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani pray; 4: A family member cries upon hearing the news of her brother who died in the crash

More than 200 people were killed when an Air India plane bound for London with 242 people on board crashed minutes after taking off from the western city of Ahmedabad on Thursday, authorities said, in the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade.

At least one person is known to have survived, police said, and the man told Indian media how he had heard a loud noise shortly after take-off.

The plane came down in a residential area, crashing onto a medical college hostel outside the airport during lunch hour. It was headed for Gatwick Airport, south of the British capital.

City police chief GS Malik told Reuters that 204 bodies had been recovered from the crash site. Vidhi Chaudhary, another senior police officer, said police found one survivor who was in seat 11A, adding that there could be more survivors in hospital.

"Thirty seconds after take-off, there was a loud noise and then the plane crashed," 40-year-old Ramesh Viswashkumar told the Hindustan Times, which showed a boarding pass for seat 11A in that name online.

"It all happened so quickly," he told the paper from his hospital bed.

"When I got up, there were bodies all around me. I was scared. I stood up and ran. There were pieces of the plane all around me," he said. "Someone grabbed hold of me and put me in an ambulance and brought me to the hospital." He said that his brother Ajay was seated in a different row on the plane. "I can't find him anymore. Please help me find him," he said.

Police chief Malik said the bodies recovered could include both passengers and people killed on the ground. Federal minister CR Patil said the dead included Vijay Rupani, the former chief minister of Gujarat. "There are also chances that the death toll will go up. More than 50 injured are in hospitals at present." Relatives had been asked to give DNA samples to identify the dead.

News channels said the plane crashed on top of the dining area of state-run BJ Medical College hostel, killing many medical students as well.

The passengers included 217 adults, 11 children and two infants, a source told Reuters. Of them, 169 were Indian nationals, 53 were Britons, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian, Air India said.

—Reuters

Crash just after take-off

The crash occurred just after the plane took off, television channels reported. One channel showed the plane taking off over a residential area and then disappearing from the screen before a huge jet of fire can be seen rising into the sky from beyond the houses.

"My sister-in-law was going to London. Within an hour, I got news that the plane had crashed," Poonam Patel, a relative of one of the passengers, told news agency ANI at the government hospital in Ahmedabad.

Ramila, the mother of a student at the medical college, told ANI her son had gone to the hostel for his lunch break when the plane crashed. "My son is safe, and I have spoken to him. He jumped from the second floor, so he suffered some injuries," she said.

According to air traffic control at Ahmedabad Airport, the aircraft departed at 1:39 p.m. (0809 GMT) from runway 23. It gave a Mayday call, signalling an emergency, but thereafter there was no response from the aircraft.

At a glance

Goodbye India...

While a pall of gloom pervades through the nation over the devastating plane crash, a video of two British citizens preparing to return home via the doomed flight AI-171 has taken the social media by storm.

The video of two Britons namely Jamie Meek, a London-based Yoga enthusiast and Fiongal Greenlaw-Meek has gone viral. This is said to be their last Instagram post before heading to London via the ill-fated Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane. In the video, the duo could be seen waving 'goodbye India' and also reminiscing about the good time they spent while holidaying here. — IANS

Tata Group announces Rs 1 crore support

Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Thursday announced that the company will provide Rs 1 crore to the families of each person who lost their life in the tragic crash.

He also said that the Tata Group will cover the medical expenses of those who were injured and ensure they receive full care and support.

In a statement, Chandrasekaran said: "No words can adequately express the grief we feel at this moment. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones, and with those who have been injured."

He added that the Tata Group would also help build a new hostel at BJ Medical College as part of its support efforts. — IANS

One survivor found, say police

One survivor has been found in the deadly crash of an Air India plane carrying 242 people, after it rammed into a nearby doctors' hostel shortly after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport, a senior police officer said.

Speaking to ANI on a phone call, Ahmedabad Police Commissioner GS Malik says, "The police found one survivor in seat 11A. He has been in the hospital and is under treatment. Cannot say anything about the number of deaths yet. The death toll may increase as the flight crashed in a residential area." — IANI

US govt agency to aid probe

Investigators to travel to India to assist aircraft accident probe bureau

A US government agency that investigates civil aviation accidents on Thursday said it would be leading a team of American investigators to India to assist in the investigation of the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in a post on X that it will be "leading a team of US investigators travelling to India to assist the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau with its investigation into the crash of an Air India Boeing 787 in Ahmedabad, India, Thursday."

It added that as per international protocols under the International Civil Aviation Organisation, all information on the investigation will be provided by the Government of India. — PTI

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IISc researchers develop least invasive method to locate tumour cells

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a minimally invasive and cost-effective technique to locate tumour cells in the human body.

According to the researchers, tumor cells have higher metabolic activity compared to healthy tissue and consequently consume a significant amount of glucose. The current diagnostic technique used to locate tumors, Positron Emission Tomography (PET), exploits this property. Clinicians inject patients with radioactive tracers, which accumulate at the tumour site and help pinpoint it. However, PET is expensive and poses the risk of radiation accumulation in case of repeated scans. Researchers from the Department of Bioengineering have developed a biocompatible small molecule that can be used to visualise tumour sites with high metabolic activity non-invasively. In this method, a near-infrared (NIR) laser beam is shone on light-absorbing molecules (chromophores) sent to the target region, which then expand, creating a pressure change. The change can be picked up as an auditory signal, and analysing these signals allows scientists to construct 3D images of the target region. The method is particularly useful for pinpointing superficial tumours. —**BMB**

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Dented roads turn more lethal in the rains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

road work, allegedly failing to place precautionary signs or barricades.

Manjunath is currently in the ICU

An FIR has been registered at Rajajinagar traffic police station. His father, Ganesh, alleged that the accident was a direct result of the BBMP Officers as A1, Contractors and BWSSB for their carelessness in leaving the road in a hazardous state. The family is now demanding accountability and immediate action from the authorities.

Ganesh told BM that Dr Rajkumar Road is already a highly congested stretch, and now it's been dug up without any safety measures or warning signs. "My son is still in the ICU, and we've already spent lakhs on his treatment. Despite filing a complaint, there's been no response or acknowledgment from BBMP. I have to visit the hospital every day, and I keep hearing about similar incidents. In the past 10 days alone, at least 2 to 3 accidents have occurred."

He said that instead of digging the road gradually, agencies excavate 4 to 5 km at a stretch and leave it unattended for months, causing

major inconvenience for commuters. "Just yesterday, there was a fatal accident. Most people don't come forward to file complaints, but potholes and poor road conditions are causing countless injuries, accidents, and deaths. It's nothing but sheer negligence."

Last month, Dhivya Kiran, a 43-year-old Richmond Town resident, served a legal notice to BBMP over chronic health issues caused by Bengaluru's poor roads. Citing medical expenses and suffering, he sought ₹50 lakh compensation and warned of filing a PIL if action isn't taken, potentially setting a legal precedent.

Fatalities on the road

Between 2017 and 2022, Bengaluru witnessed at least 13 pothole-related deaths, with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data recording 31 such deaths in 2021 alone. In 2022, the city topped the list for deaths caused by civic negligence, with 21 fatalities. Reports suggest that over 100 lives may have been lost due to potholes since 2018. The Outer Ring Road stretch from Marathahalli to Bellandur is riddled with potholes and rough patches, leading to waterlogging during rains and frequent accidents involving motorists and pedestrians.

With the new academic year underway, students are forced to navigate poorly maintained roads leading to schools and colleges. Despite the arrival of the monsoon, several stretches remain in disrepair, raising concerns over safety and accessibility. A few weeks ago,a brief 10-minute downpour led to waterlogging in many areas. In some instances, commuters couldn't figure out submerged potholes and met with accidents after losing balance.

A user on X (formerly Twitter) named Komal sarcastically commented, "Please come to Bangalore if you want to enjoy an off-roading experience. Waterlogging and potholes make it a premium ride."

Addressing the issue a week back about potholes, BBMP Chief engineer Prahalad had admitted that potholes are a common issue in Bangalore. "If a complaint is given, we will fix it within 72 hours," he had said, but this also raised questions about the quality of the repair work.

Transport expert MN Shree Hari explains that Bengaluru's pothole problem persists due to poor construction practices and lack of maintenance. "Substandard materials and improper use of bitumen are common, with cost-cutting often leading to its omission. Bitumen, an expensive petroleum product, is usually imported, and sometimes skipped in the road work. Heavy rains saturate the soil beneath roads, weakening the foundation, while inadequate drainage worsens the damage. Faulty road design, rising vehicle loads, and delayed repairs add to the issue. Post-utility work, roads are often unevenly patched with loose soil, causing potholes," he said.

Civic experts also stressed on the added dangers of broken roads when it rains.

"Potholes filled with rainwater pose a severe and often fatal risk to motorists especially two-wheeler riders due to their invisibility during rainy conditions. It is imperative that ward engineers identify and rectify such hazards during routine inspections, and that zonal commissioners enforce accountability. Every ward has an engineer and they should be able to spot this during their visit and inspection of their respective wards. Ensuring safe road and footpath conditions is not just a matter of civic maintenance but of protecting lives," said Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Bengaluru Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed BBMP officials to urgently fill potholes, prioritising arterial and sub-arterial roads before the rains intensify. He stressed on the use of cold mix during showers and speeding up asphalting work. He also urged close monitoring of flood-prone areas and permanent solutions to recurring issues.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rahul P S/o M Praveen Lunia R/o #13,1st Floor ,Bachammal Road Cox Town B'lore-560005 have changed my name to Rahul P Lunia .

I, KOTHAPALLI SUDHAKAR RAO, Residing at No 420, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumantha Nagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560050, Have changed our minor daughter name from SHARA K S to SHARA RAO K S, vide affidavit dated 12/06/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I **Nagendrababu M R** s/o Ravikumar V age 33 years, address : no 26-4 Babu Rao Road Kumbarapete , Malur, Karnataka 563130 has changed my Name from **Malur Ravichandra Nagendrababu** (old Name) To **Malur Ravikumar Nagendrababu (New name)** vide affidavit dated 11/06/2025 Notary by **M JAGANNATHA.**

I, Shezad Nawab R/O C603, Icon Apartments, Thanisandra, Beside Elements Mall, Bangalore North, Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to Mohammed Shezad Nawab

I, Ajay Babu Muralidhar Kayapathi R/o No.41/3D, Plot.1, Kushugal road, Manoj paradise, Hubli-Dharwad city 580023 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Ajay Babu Kayapati Murlidhar Affidavit Dt.12/06/2025 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Sharoff Srinath Krishnaiah Setty And Srinath S K S/O Krishnaiah Setty Sharoff R/o No 1017, Prestige Willow Tree, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097 have changed my name to Srinath Sharoff for all purposes

I, Chandra H Sakhrani, w/o Manoj kumar R Rajdev, R/o 201, Sai Vihar, 9th cross, Sir MV layout, Bengaluru have changed my name to Bhavika M Rajdev on 08/06/2012 Before Notary R S Vijay

I, Salma Khaleem W/O, Irshad Pasha R/o No 2450 Ahmed Nagar Near Masjid Patan Kote Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039 have changed my name to Salma for all purposes.

I, J Calvin Kenneth Anthony S/O, Jacob Anthony R/o 1300/d, 1st Cross, Hal 3rd Stage, New Tippasandra, Bengaluru, 560075, have changed my name to Calvin Kenneth Anthony for all purposes.

I, Mahalingesh Burkul, R/O A3, Pavithra Nest Apartment, 6th G Cross, Kaggadasapura, Bangalore 560093, have changed my name to Mahalingesh Dhanappa Burkul for all future purpose

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Citizens worry tree census not methodical enough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

agency conducting the census on behalf of BBMP, they informed us that the process involved four rechecks after the first round of tagging trees, and such discrepancies will be ironed out in these stages.

"While we have trained the boys, who are conducting the census on ground, the vastness of the project implies that such errors are inevitable. However, once the process of tagging trees in an area is over, we go for rechecks to ensure that no tree has been missed or marked incorrectly. After multiple rounds of checks by us, the final check will be conducted by range forest officers, before the data is finalised," said a representative of the agency.

Notably, citizens and tree activists have been pointing out discrepancies in the process since it started in February 2024. Residents from various areas in the city have underlined in the past that the project is being carried out recklessly.

Bush not tree

A few months back, residents of Rajarajeshwari Nagar sounded the alarm over bushes counted as trees. Many have also raised concerns about trees not being tagged in consecutive numbers, which may lead to confusion in pinpointing illegal felling of trees in the future.

BBMP officials had then clarified that the IDs are being generated randomly by the digital application developed by the Karnataka Remote Sensing Institute, leading to non-consecutive numbers for trees next to one another. They also said that trees with missing numbers in one area can be found in some other area," said an official.

Slow progress

So far, the census has not yet been completed in the majority of BBMP zones.

According to a source in BBMP, roughly 80% of the enumeration is done in Yelahanka, and nearly 40% of the work is completed in Dasarahalli.

In Mahadevapura, RR Nagar, Bengaluru South, the process is currently stalled after nearly 30% completion of on-ground work. Notably, BBMP floated new tenders for these zones in April this year, following slow progress made by the contractor in these zones.

However, BBMP yet again landed in a zero-bid situation, and tenders will be floated yet again, according to the source.

"Since we landed in a bid situation, the process may take more time than expected. However, efforts are being made to wrap up the project as early as possible," said the official.

BBMP set the ball rolling and began Bengaluru's much-awaited tree census in February 2024 with a fund allocation of a little over Rs 3.74 crore, after a delay of nearly five years following the High Court's order in August 2019, instructing the civic agency to enumerate Bengaluru's trees. The census was expected to be over by August 2024, which was then moved to November and then to March 2025. However, it has now appeared to have been delayed indefinitely.

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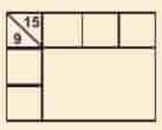
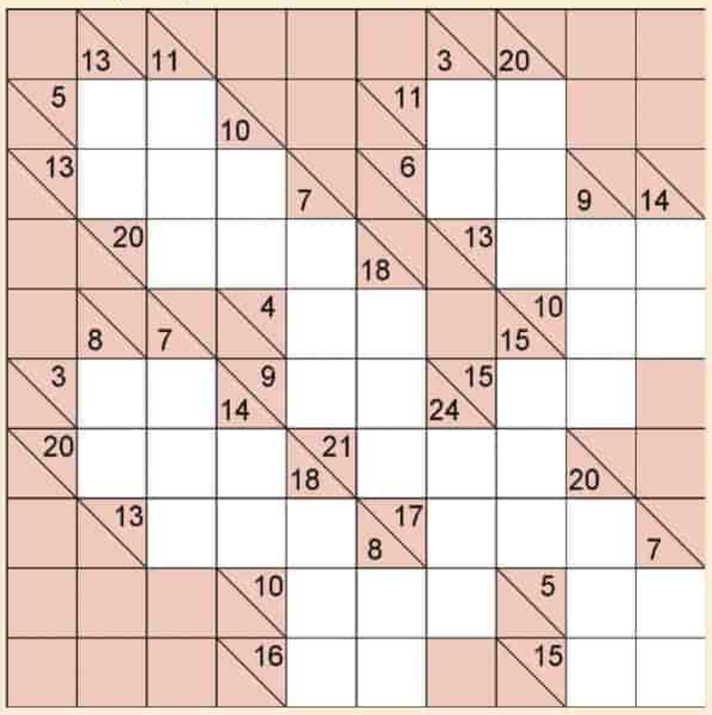
Kakuro

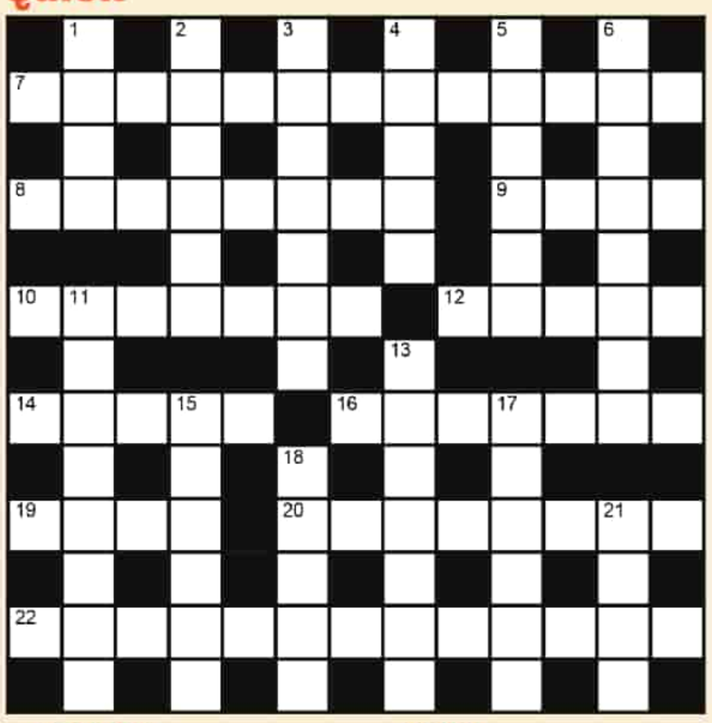
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Vote with the other party (5,3,5)
8 Beauty queen and actress ___ Sen (8)
9 Bovine animals (4)
10 Tough and thin (7)
12 Is ahead in a race? (5)
14 The evening star (5)
16 Glosses or shines on surfaces? (7)
19 Bric-a- ___ : Miscellaneous curios (4)
20 High ranking army officers (8)
22 Bearing, enduring or tolerating (7,2,4)

DOWN

1 Pakistani language (4)
2 Respiratory disorder (6)
3 Orchestra section (7)
4 Hickory nut (5)
5 VP to Bill Clinton (2,4)
6 Very, very lazy? (4,4)
11 Openly optimistic (8)
13 Attendance (7)
15 Famous landmark on the corner of Kasturba road and Vittal Mallya Road (2,4)
17 Flung (6)
18 Pain or distress (5)
21 Plenty (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS U

EJ LXF XIYL WMM AVY NFMYG LXF QEGG WMM AVY JFC.

Linemaro

If your heart was a prison, I'd like to be sentenced for life

Mindchow

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it

Joke of the day

I took a course in speed waiting... now I can wait an hour in only ten minutes

Loop

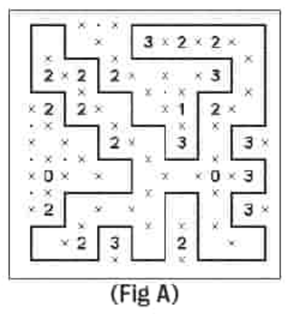
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

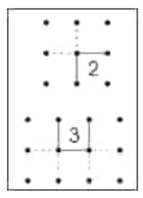
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

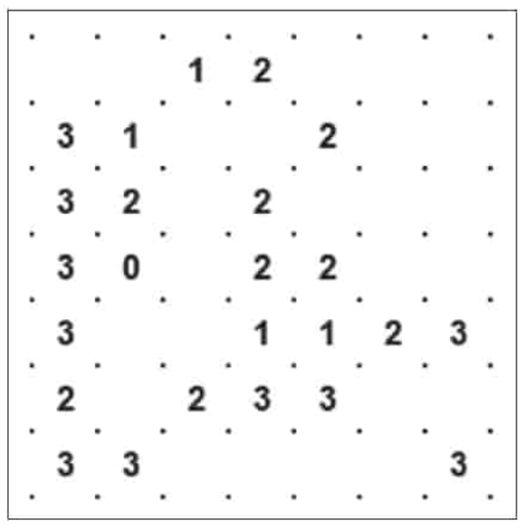
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



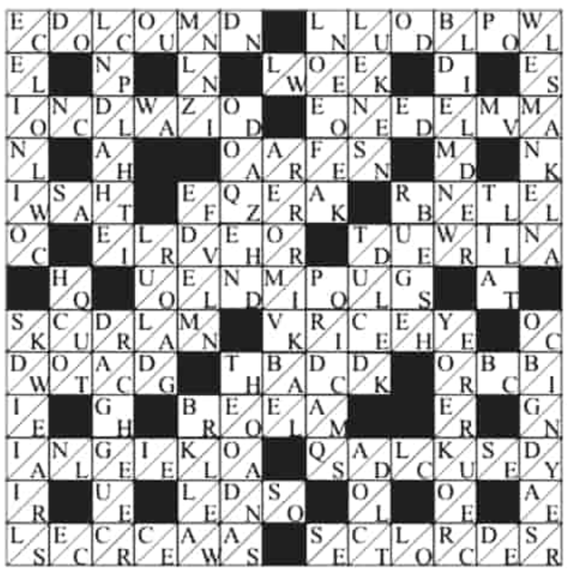
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 M	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

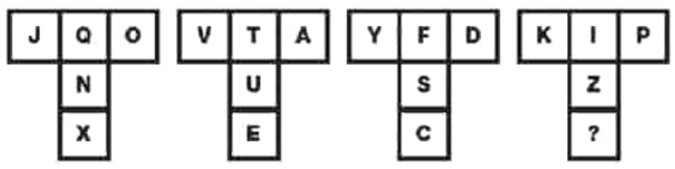
1 Harms; 6 A race; 7 Lace C; 8 Ranet; 9 Saw if

DOWN

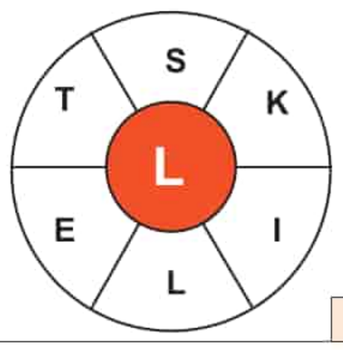
1 Caw ma; 2 An are; 3 Citer; 4 Sc far; 5 Heals

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the pattern?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; **18** Good; **20** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7	9		1		5		6	8
	8	4				2	1	
9	5			8			4	1
		3				7		
6	4			7			2	3
	1	9				4	5	
8	7		4		6		3	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

2 4 5 8

Medium = 24

3 3 5 6

Hard = 20

2 2 5 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

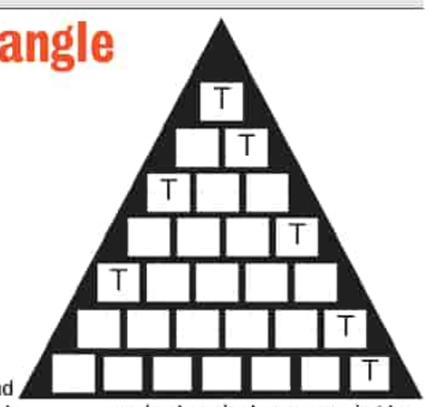
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Flag is lower. 3. Visor is larger. 4. Mouth is not open as wide. 5. Hill is added in distance. 6. Ear is larger.

Riddler

I am four words Though there appear to be three Two ways of pronouncing Three spellings there be. The first is a manner of indicating, a case being such, or therefore, or a measure of degree. The second is a pig, female you see. The third is also on a farm, a manner of planting of seed. The fourth is to stitch, to hold fabric together, indeed. Can you tell me now, what word could this be?

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Pronoun
3 Half of hexa
4 Bad gossip
5 Attempted
6 Redirect
7 Judgment

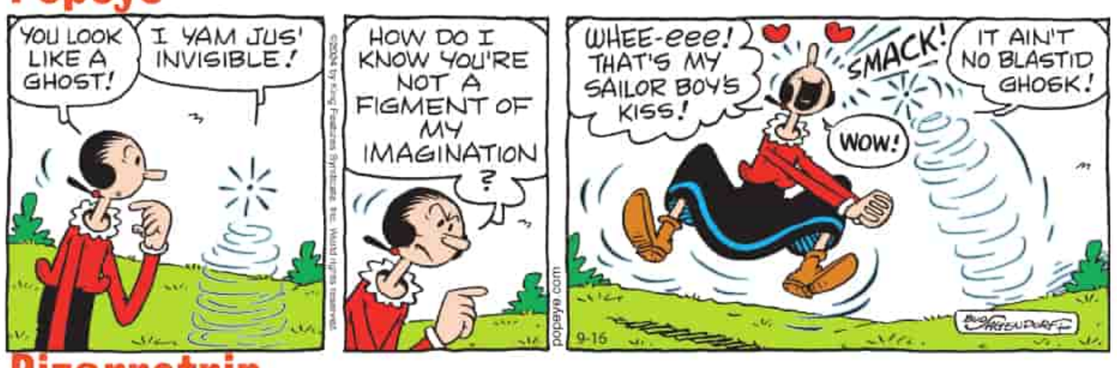


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YOU LOOK LIKE A GHOST!
I YAM JUS' INVISIBLE!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION ?
WHEE-eee! THAT'S MY SAILOR BOY'S KISS!
SMACK!
WOW!
IT AIN'T NO BLASTID GHOSK!
popeye.com
9-16

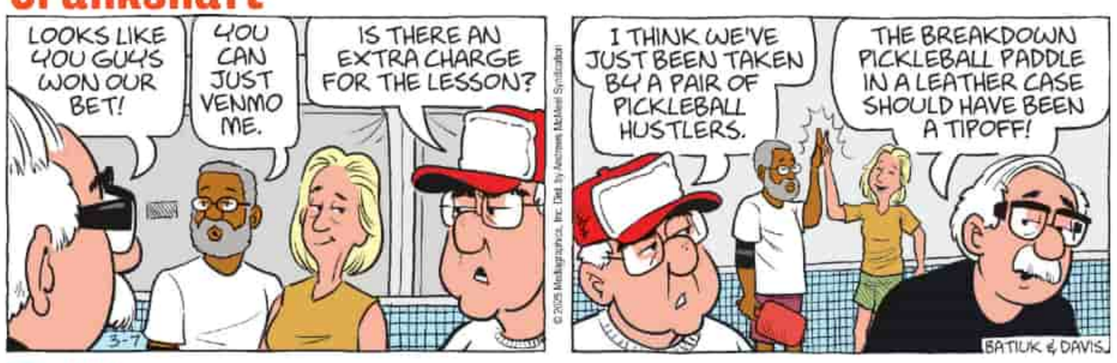
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WELL, IT WAS GOOD TO MEET YOU! GIVE ME YOUR NUMBER, AND MAYBE WE CAN DO ANOTHER PICNIC SOMETIME!
SURE!
YOU GAVE HER YOUR NUMBER?!
WOW, ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD, AND YOU ALREADY HAVE TWO GIRLFRIENDS.
HEART!! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS WON OUR BET!
YOU CAN JUST VENMO ME.
IS THERE AN EXTRA CHARGE FOR THE LESSON?
I THINK WE'VE JUST BEEN TAKEN BY A PAIR OF PICKLEBALL HUSTLERS.
THE BREAKDOWN PICKLEBALL PADDLE IN A LEATHER CASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TIPOFF!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you're likely to feel happy and patient, and this positive mindset will reflect in your work. You may complete your tasks efficiently and consider visiting a religious place. Donations to charity or a sacred cause may also be on your mind. Lovebirds may develop deeper trust in their relationship. You'll likely be able to keep opponents under control.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which could impact your work performance. Project delays might affect your reputation both professionally and personally. Avoid adventurous activities or rash driving. Love relationships may face turbulence or breakups. Job seekers might feel disappointed by missed opportunities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A sense of positivity surrounds you today. Things will seem manageable and under control. You might plan to start a new business in partnership and consider a long-distance journey. Trust between you and your spouse may grow, promoting domestic harmony.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You're likely to perform well at work today, with stronger bonding with your boss. New responsibilities or even a promotion may come your way. Chronic health issues may see improvement. You may also receive incentives for your efforts. Conflicts with siblings might be resolved. Job seekers could find new opportunities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Life may feel challenging today. Seek guidance from elders to navigate through difficulties, and practice patience. Concerns about your children's education may arise, possibly leading to a short academic trip. Investors should avoid speculation and act cautiously.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today may bring dissatisfaction, as you might not see results from your hard work, leading to disappointment. Be cautious before signing any contracts—read all documents carefully. Investment in assets is possible, but follow your intuition and be mindful when considering fixed investments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Social gatherings and family events may keep you busy today, helping you expand your network. A short work-related trip is also possible. Disputes among siblings could be resolved. Your subordinates may support you in completing a tough project. Confidence will be high, but practice patience in all interactions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Family get-togethers may keep you engaged today. Your polite behavior will enhance your image among relatives and friends. You may spend money on artifacts or household items that boost your social status. Positive news from a close relative may brighten your day.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Happiness surrounds you today, helping you enjoy your routine work. Your energy and determination will help you make tough decisions, leading to future profits. A short business trip is likely. Colleagues and subordinates will support you in meeting deadlines. Students will be more focused. Avoid overeating to prevent stomach issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel dull today due to lack of sleep, which could affect your physical and mental well-being. Health issues in the family may add to your stress. Unnecessary spending may hurt your savings. Stay alert, as there could be hidden conspiracies around you.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll likely begin your day on a joyful note. At work, quick decision-making could bring future rewards. A new income source may improve your finances. With your partner's support, you might invest in a business that could turn profitable. Improved understanding with your spouse will bring harmony at home.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, work responsibilities may keep you occupied, leaving little time for family. Mental fatigue may affect your energy levels. However, blessings from elders may lead to a promotion or a high-ranking job for some. Your professional achievements may boost your social status.

KIDZONE

Samrath, Bengaluru

Sadhvi, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (√[3×25] / √[3]) ×
(√[2×16] / √[2])
= √[25]×√[16]
= 5×4 = 20

RIDDLER
In order of appearance: So, Sow, Sow, Sew

QUOTE UNCODE
If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun.

BULL'S EYE
isle, islet, kill, kilt, lest, like, lilt, list, sell, silk, sill, silt, skill, still, tell, tile, till

FAST FIVE

M	A	R	S	H
A	N	T	R	E
C	E	C	A	L
A	R	E	C	A
W	A	I	F	S

STRIKE OUT

S	C	R	E	W	S		S	C	O	R	E	R		
R		E		E	D	O		O		E		E		
E		G		B	E	L	A		S	A	C	K	E	D
A	N	G	E	L	A		S	A	C	K	E	D		
E		G		B	E	L	A		R		N			
W	O	A	D		H	A	C	K		O	B	I		
S	U	D	A	N		V	I	C	H	Y		C		
	Q		O	E	D	I	P	U	S		A			
C		E	L	V	E	R		T	U	R	I	N		
I	S	T		E	Z	R	A		B	E	T	E		
N		A		O	A	F	S		D		K			
I	N	L	A	I	D		O	E	D	E	M	A		
L		P		L	W	O	K		I		E			
C	O	L	U	M	N		L	U	D	L	O	W		

QUICK

		L		Y		Y		T		N		S		
	P	U	T	T	I	N	G	U	P	W	I	T	H	
		F		I		O		O		O				
B	R	A	C		G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S		
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		D		T		R		C		G		N		
C	R	O	S	S	T	H	E	F	L	O	O	R		
	U		A		S		P		A		B			

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Start on the top left of the left hand diagram, and move in horizontal lines, from left to right, top to bottom, across all 4 diagrams as a whole. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 7, then back 2, repeating this sequence all the way around.

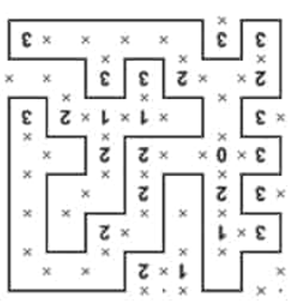
SUDOKU

8	7	5	4	9	6	1	3	2
4	3	6	5	1	2	8	9	7
2	1	9	8	3	7	4	5	6
6	4	8	9	7	1	5	2	3
1	2	3	6	5	4	7	8	9
9	5	7	2	8	3	6	4	1
3	8	4	7	6	9	2	1	5
5	6	1	3	2	8	9	7	4
7	9	2	1	4	5	3	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Tri, Dirt, Tried, Divert, Verdict.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 + 5 − 2 = 15
Medium
6 − 3 + 5 x 3 = 24
Hard
5 + 2 − 2 x 4 = 20

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # 1 conviction
Former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was convicted on Wednesday of one of the top charges in his sex crimes retrial but acquitted of another charge

First impressions

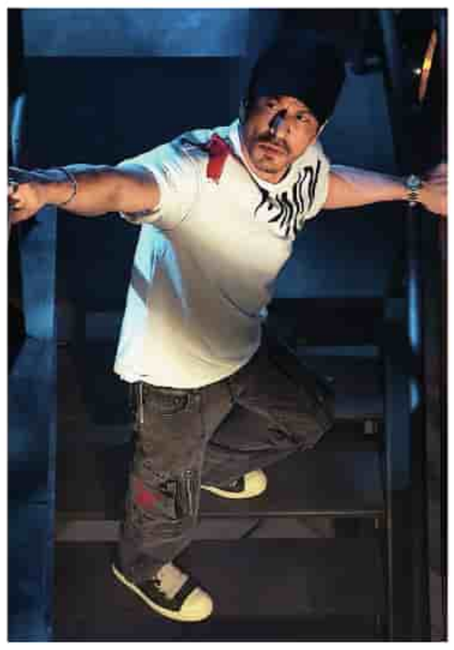
Bollywood's debuts that became instant hits

Some debut performances in Bollywood leave a lasting impression, introducing stars with such charm, talent, and screen presence that their first roles are unforgettable. Whether it's a romantic lead, a bold character, or a refreshing newcomer, these debut films gave us a glimpse into the stars they'd become. Years later, these performances still hold strong in our memory and hearts.

— Times

Hrithik Roshan in 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai'

Hrithik Roshan's debut in 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai ' was nothing short of a phenomenon. Playing a double role, one as a sweet, struggling singer and another as a rich, confident man, Hrithik showcased dancing skills, acting range, and screen presence in one go. Audiences were mesmerized, and the film became a massive hit. His performance not only launched his stardom but also raised the bar for what a debut could look like in Bollywood.



Shah Rukh Khan in 'Deewana'

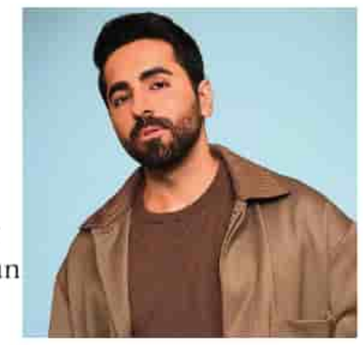
Shah Rukh Khan made his silver screen debut in 'Deewana' where he played a passionate young man who falls for a widow. While Rishi Kapoor was the initial lead, SRK's entry shifted the film's energy. With his boyish charm and emotional intensity, he captured hearts instantly. This film kick-started a career that would make him the "King of Bollywood." Even today, his entry scene and performance in 'Deewana' feel fresh and memorable.

Kartik Aaryan in 'Pyaar ka Punchnama'

Kartik Aaryan burst onto the scene with 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama,' a film that gave voice to frustrated young men in relationships. His now-iconic monologue became an internet sensation and showcased his impeccable comic timing. As Rajat, the confused yet expressive boyfriend, Kartik made a mark with just one film. Despite being a low-budget film, his performance stood out and remains a fan favorite, especially for its raw, relatable humor.

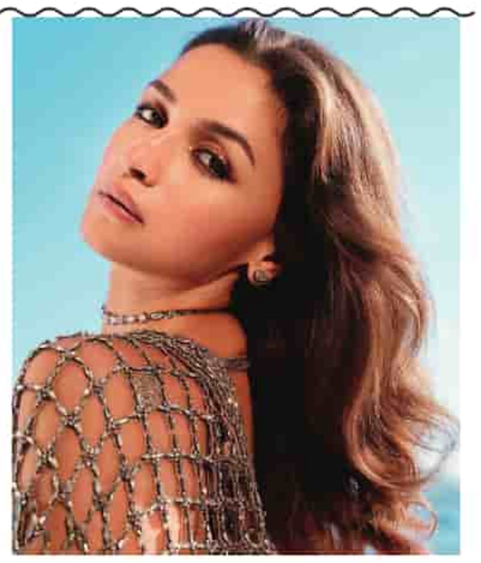
Ayushmann Khurrana in 'Vicky Donor'

Ayushmann Khurrana's debut in 'Vicky Donor' was refreshing and bold. As a young man who becomes a sperm donor, Ayushmann tackled a taboo topic with charm and humor. His performance was both natural and entertaining by giving the film its heart. Breaking the mould of the typical Bollywood debut, 'Vicky Donor' proved that meaningful cinema could be fun and that Ayushmann was here to stay as a relatable, offbeat lead.



Alia Bhatt in 'Student of the Year'

Alia Bhatt stepped into Bollywood with 'Student of the Year,' playing the stylish, confident Shanaya. While the film had a glossy campus setting, Alia stood out with her screen presence and natural charm. She played the role with ease, hinting at the emotional depth she would bring to future performances. Today, with multiple critically acclaimed roles under her belt, her debut still feels like the exciting start of a major journey in Indian cinema.



Emily Blunt shares update on 'The Devil Wears Prada' sequel

Actress Emily Blunt shared a huge update regarding the sequel to 'The Devil Wears Prada', reported Deadline.

While playing coy about details about the upcoming sequel to the 2006 screen adaptation of Lauren Weisberger's novel, Emily Blunt revealed that the follow-up goes into production next month, and she'll reprise her role as Emily Charlton.

"Am I allowed to say that?" Blunt asked her rep with a laugh before sharing the news with Entertainment Tonight, as quoted by Deadline, previously joking: "Can you tell I'm skirting the issue? Can you tell I can't tell you anything?"

The actress also opened up about he role in the sequel.

"It's so weird, I haven't even read a script. I don't know. I'm just like, 'Where is she?' I don't know," said Emily Blunt as quoted by Deadline.

The first film's screenwriter, Aline Bros McKenna, will return to pen the sequel, which will be directed by David Frankel.

After 'The Devil Wears Prada' premiered in theatres 20 years ago this month, starring Anne Hathaway as college graduate Andy Sachs, who takes a job at fashion magazine Runway as the assistant to the diabolical Miranda Priestley (Meryl Streep).

According to Deadline, the sequel, which was revealed to be in development at Disney last July, will premiere in theatres on May 1, 2026.

While no casting has been confirmed, Blunt is expected to reunite with Streep and Hathaway in the sequel. —ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Father-son bond

The poster of multilingual movie Father was unveiled on the occasion of Darling Krishna's birthday on Thursday. The team members conveyed birthday wishes to Darling Krishna who plays the lead along with veteran actor Prakash Raj in the movie. The poster showcases Darling Krishna riding a scooter with Prakash Raj riding pillion.

Father is the first of the five pan-India movies announced by director-cum-producer R Chandru in January 2024. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was the chief guest during the launch of RC Studios banner last year.

Father focuses on a father-son relationship. Prakash Raj plays the father while Darling Krishna plays the son. Amrutha Iyengar, who shared screen with Darling Krishna in Kannada movie Love Mocktail, is once again paired opposite him.

According to sources, the post-production works of the movie are in progress and the movie is scheduled for release in August.

Story of Eltu, Mutta

Recently, Kuladalli Keelyavudo, a Kannada movie based on people who provide music for funerals was released. Now, Eltu Mutta, a movie about people engaged to beat drums at funerals, is ready for release. Its teaser was unveiled at Renukamba Preview Theatre on Wednesday. Shailaja Vijay Kiragandur, Akshay Gangadhar, and LY Rajesh were the guests of honour. The guests appreciated the director after seeing the teaser.

"Eltu and Mutta are two characters in the movie. I play Eltu while Shaurya plays Mutta. The enmity between snakes and peacocks is the basis of my script," said director R Surya.

The director said the movie is set in the backdrop of Kodagu and the dialogues have the region's diction. On the occasion, producer Sathya Srinivasan, who is basically a software engineer and enjoys wildlife photography, said that he is connected to the film industry as his father Srinivasan is a distributor for Tamil movies. "My dream to bankroll a movie was realised with Eltu Mutta. We took precautions before the shoot and also provided insurance to the cast and crew," said Sathya.